

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/530,644
Applicant: Minami et al.
Filed: April 6, 2005
TC/A.U.: 3723
Examiner Robert Rose
Docket No.: 2933HC-2
Customer No.: **22442**

Confirmation No. 7612

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

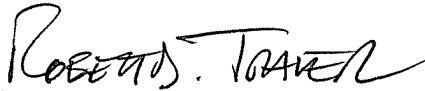
Sir,

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action having a mailing date of September 14, 2006. This response is filed within the one month shortened statutory period. Applicants therefore believe this response is timely filed and no fees are due. In the event any fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 between Claims 1-12 and 15-20 (Group I) and Claims 13, 14 (Group II). Applicants hereby elect the Examiner's Group I, claims 1-12 and 15-20, without traverse.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 1-12 and 15-20 are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: 

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Date: October 11, 2006